

and irrational rules and cuts through the red tape that burdens retirement plans and their participants, and it creates new incentives for small businesses to establish these pension plans. It has a wonderful catch-up provision where older workers who are coming back into the work force can put even more aside for their pensions. This is particularly important for working moms who have been out of the work force but coming back after age 50 and want the opportunity to get more in the nest egg for their retirement. It responds to the needs of the increasingly mobile work force we have in this country by allowing people to vest faster in their pension plans and allowing portability so you can move your pension plan from job to job, which is so important to many, Americans. We believe that changing jobs should not mean that you get short changed on your retirement savings and your sense of security in retirement.

If enacted, these changes will expand savings, and they will make the difference between mere subsistence in retirement and retirement security for millions of workers nationwide.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the legislation, H.R. 1102.

FORMULATING A RATIONAL DRUG POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BONO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I come before the House again tonight to talk primarily about one of the major issues I am involved in in the United States Congress and as a Member of the House of Representatives.

I have the privilege and opportunity to serve as the Chair during the 106th Congress of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, and in that capacity it is my responsibility to help formulate a rational drug policy both for the House of Representatives, for the United States Congress and, hopefully, for the American people, to deal with a problem that is epidemic and devastating across our land. We do not fail to pick up a newspaper across the United States today or in my local community in central Florida and not read about some tragedy, particularly among our young people, some faceless, some unknown, some celebrities, some stars; one last week, I believe Mark Tuinei of the Dallas Cowboys. A 39-year-old healthy successful athlete died tragically from the results of a heroin overdose. I understand it was one of the first times he had ever used heroin. I understand it was also possibly in conjunction with another drug, possibly ecstasy. I am sure all this is to be investigated, but nonetheless he did die a tragic death, and we lost another young athletic star.

But, Madam Speaker, it is my concern that we cannot get attention to this problem.

This past couple of weeks the Nation has been focused and riveted on the tragedy at Columbine High School in Colorado, and certainly this horrific act in Colorado and Littleton did cause all of us pause and concern about the state of violence in our school system and education and with our young people.

But, Madam Speaker, there are three Columbine High Schools or the equivalent of the death and destruction among our population every single day in America. There are three Columbine High School tragedy equivalents across our land on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and every one of the 365 days. Last year over 14,000 Americans lost their lives to drug-related deaths. The statistics are mind-boggling when you stop and think that in the last 6 years of this administration over 100,000 Americans, the equivalent of cities of significant population have been entirely wiped out by drug-related deaths, and what is more disturbing is some of the policies of this administration which were instituted in the first 2 years when they controlled the United States House of Representatives, the other body, the United States Senate, and the White House, that in fact we are still reeling from the devastating effects of those policies on our country and particularly in the area of illegal narcotics deaths.

We have seen a dramatic increase in both the use and abuse of very hard drugs including heroin. A heroin epidemic exists and rages across this land, in my own community. Our young people, our teenage population in the last 5 years, has experienced an 875 percent increase in heroin use. Now I am talking about our teen population, our youngest victims in again this epidemic of heroin.

What has also caused the record number of deaths and I am sure will be attributed to the deaths we have read about just in the past few days in my local community and the death I cited of a Dallas Cowboys athlete is the high purity of heroin that is entering the United States. People today have no idea of the deadly effects of high purity heroin, and particularly when they are used with any other substance the results are devastating.

In my local community, and I represent central Florida from Orlando to Daytona Beach, a very prosperous area, an area that has a high education level, a high income level, again relatively high prosperity across the district, we have a situation of heroin deaths now exceeding homicides in that, again, tranquil part of central Florida, and this is no longer a problem of one urban addiction population, a hard-core use in, again, center cities problem; this is a problem that now extends to every income level and, again, particularly is violent and prevalent

among our young people and our teenage population.

The cost of this epidemic is staggering. We have filled our prisons across this great land with almost 2 million Americans incarcerated. Estimates are now that 60 to 70 percent of those behind bars in our jails, in our prisons, in our Federal penitentiaries are there because of some drug-related offense. And many of these individuals are there because they committed a very serious crime, not small usage of illegal narcotics, but very serious felonies, and sometimes because they were on drugs or sometimes they were dealing in illegal narcotics, but the results are 60 to 70 percent of our prison population across this land is now again involved and has been involved with illegal narcotics.

If my colleagues want to take an example of a human tragedy, take the area we are in, Madam Speaker, the Nation's Capital, an area that is visited by thousands and thousands of tourists daily. It should be the pride of every American, and unfortunately, my colleagues, Washington, because of illegal narcotics, has become a sad commentary on the abuse and misuse of illegal narcotics. Three hundred fifty to 400 young men in most instances, and mostly black males, in our nation's capital have died annually the past 6 or 7 years, tragic deaths, and most of them related to illegal narcotics. The situation is even worse when you look at the effect again on the minority population, the young black males who have so much potential in our society. In the District of Columbia nearly 50 percent of the male population is part of the judicial system on probation or behind bars, again an incredible human tragedy and much of it linked to the abuse and misuse and trafficking in illegal narcotics.

□ 1715

The cost in dollars, not to mention the human tragedy that I just mentioned, is phenomenal. As chair of the subcommittee, we are now trying to work with others in the Congress to formulate a package to address in dollars the direct cost of illegal narcotics, and we do not have all of the costs combined in this figure but we will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$18 billion that Congress is about to pass a supplemental appropriations, of which \$6.9 billion can be attributed to the war in Kosovo and we are looking at double to triple of that direct cost in our budget to the war on drugs, which again is an expensive proposition.

Madam Speaker, these are only the direct costs that I am referring to, this \$18 billion we will consider for the next fiscal year. There are a quarter of a trillion dollars in additional costs, in lost wages, in incarceration, in costs to the judicial system, in welfare and support systems and social systems and the loss, the tremendous loss, of people involved and victims of illegal narcotic trafficking.

So the loss in lives and direct human lives is incredible. The loss in dollars and cents to the taxpayers and the costs that the Congress must cover in expenses for, again, this situation and illegal narcotics is phenomenal.

Again, some of the problems that we are facing today emanated from a change in policy. It may have been well intended. During the Reagan administration, and I had the opportunity to serve with Senator Paula Hawkins who initiated many of the anti-narcotics legislative and administrative efforts working with the Reagan administration in the early eighties, Florida was inundated with cocaine and other illegal narcotics trafficking, but a strategy to stop drugs at their source, a strategy to interdict illegal narcotics as they came from their source, a strategy to employ the military, the Coast Guard and other United States assets before the illegal narcotics ever got to our shores, all of these programs were put in place.

Additionally, we had a First Lady who developed a program working with legislative leaders and the President and others. It was a simple program. She developed a program that said, just say no, to our young people. The results were pretty dramatic.

If we look in the early eighties, we had high drug usage. We had increasing narcotics trafficking, and those statistics and figures went down steadily through the Reagan administration of the 1980s into the early 1990s when President Bush continued those policies.

It was not until 1993, with this administration, that they began dismantling, first of all, the drug czar's office. We cannot fight a national or international effort without the proper resources, without the proper direction, and certainly with so many Federal agencies involved and responsible for various elements of combatting illegal narcotics, whether it is the Department of Education, HHS, the Department of Justice, the DEA, our Drug Enforcement Administration, the Coast Guard, which is under transportation and other agencies, unless there was a good coordinating operation which was established again under the Reagan administration, and with the position of drug czar, can you have an effective anti-narcotics, illegal narcotics, operation or administration at the Federal level. So the first mistake that was made was dismantling that office and cutting dramatically their resources.

Next, the Clinton administration, and this is now history, cut the source country operations. If we look at how to stop illegal narcotics in huge quantities from entering the United States, we merely look at the sources. Now, if we had cocaine growing in every backyard or if we had cocaine coming from every nation on earth, it might be impossible to stop cocaine and coca production in every one of these sources, but, in fact, we have known that the three countries involved in the produc-

tion of coca were Bolivia, Peru and Colombia. Ninety percent of the cocaine and coca was actually produced in Bolivia and Peru. However, again, changes from this administration have now made Colombia the major producer of coca and cocaine in the entire world, now exceeding what Peru and Bolivia had captured as the major source of production.

So we had, again, a dramatic decrease, a cut of the source country programs that cost effectively stopped the production of illegal narcotics. We knew cocaine was coming from there. We knew heroin and other things, tough narcotics, were trafficking through Mexico, and we stopped programs to, again, stop drugs at their production source and then stop drugs at the second most cost effective stage, which is interdicting them before they ever get to the country, as they are leaving the source country. Dramatic cuts were made in these interdiction programs.

Most of the military activities were sharply cut back, and additionally we cut the Coast Guard budget. When I say "we," the Congress that was controlled, again, by the other side of the aisle, the Democrats, in 1993 to 1995. Again, they controlled both the legislative and executive branches of government when they made these cuts in the military, in the Coast Guard, in the eradication and interdiction programs.

Now, they did dramatically increase the treatment programs, but if we fought a battle and we only fought the battle by treating the wounded, it is not much of a battle. If we did that in any of our conflicts, we would be decimated. We have been, in fact, decimated in the war on drugs, because basically this administration, through the direction of President Clinton, dismantled what we had in place as a war on drugs. That is how we got to the situation where we have seen an incredible increase in narcotics, particularly heroin and cocaine and methamphetamine, coming into the United States.

Our subcommittee has looked at some of the problems relating to stopping drug trafficking, and I am pleased to inherit the responsibility I have for helping to develop this national drug strategy from the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), who is now the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Speaker HASTERT, in his capacity as chair of the Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations and the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice Drug Policy and Human Resources, on which I served in the last Congress, led the fight and the effort to put our real war on drugs back together; to restore the interdiction programs; to restore the eradication, again, at the source country programs; to bring the military and the Coast Guard back in to this battle so that, again, we have a real war and effort to stop the incredible supply and quantity of hard narcotics coming into the United States.

If that is not a responsibility of the Federal Government to deal with the international problem, the supply coming into the country, I do not know what is a national responsibility for any Federal Government.

I do want to give credit to Speaker HASTERT, who in his capacity as chair of the subcommittee on which I served with him in the last Congress helped put together again these programs that were decimated by the Clinton administration and by the policy of the democrat controlled Congress from 1993 to 1995. He did an admirable job.

Not only did Speaker HASTERT restore some of the areas that are so important, eradication at the source, interdiction, use of the military, the Coast Guard and getting those resources to enforcement, he also shepherded through dramatic increases in education, because if we do not have a solid education program and make young people in particular, and all Americans, aware of the potential danger of these hard narcotics, then we cannot be successful in stopping drug abuse and the stream of illegal narcotics coming into the country.

Nearly a billion dollars in increase in funding was appropriated, a very dramatic increase, to bring us up to the levels not even of 1992 when they started dismantling some of these programs, but starting back to restore again and have an effective war on drugs.

I hear some of the critics saying the war on drugs has failed. Well, Madam Speaker, there has been no war on drugs since 1993, with this administration. It is only in the last 2 years that we have again put the adequate resources to cost effectively stop these huge quantities of deadly narcotics from entering this country. So we have begun that effort and we need to pick that effort up.

Another incredible mistake made by this administration was a decision to cut aid to Colombia. The Congress has provided aid to Colombia. Now, why should the United States provide aid, and what interest do the taxpayers and others have in providing aid to Colombia?

As I said, there are two sources of cocaine where 90 percent of the cocaine came from in all the world; it was from Peru and Bolivia. This administration stopped resources, aid, assistance, ammunition, helicopters, spare parts, despite numerous protests from Congress, from going to Colombia. They stopped the shipment and supply.

In that period of time in the last few years, 3, 4 years, now we have to understand there was almost no coca produced in Colombia some 5 years ago, with the policy of this administration and stopping again that assistance from getting there, Colombia is now the major producer in the world of coca, the raw material, and the major producer of cocaine. Not only is it a producer of the raw material, and the major processor in the entire world, again through a very direct policy of

this administration, which was to cut off assistance, again, despite countless protests, despite letters, despite communications, despite pleas from Members of Congress, and I know this because I participated in this with Speaker HASTERT, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), who chairs the Committee on International Relations, and numerous other Members of Congress who joined us in saying do not make this mistake, do not cut off this assistance to Colombia, so now we have, again, made Colombia, through an incorrect policy, the number one producer of cocaine.

In the same period of time, since President Clinton took office, Colombia produced almost no heroin. There was almost zero heroin, zero poppies and opiates produced from the country of Colombia. What has happened, Madam Speaker, is absolutely incredible in this 5, 6 year period of this administration. The largest source of heroin, and not the heroin of the 1960s or 1970s or even the 1980s, but high quality, high purity heroin, the largest source, 75 percent of all the heroin entering the United States, devastating children and people of all ages in Florida and across this Nation, 75 percent is now coming from Colombia.

Again, Colombia was not a producer of heroin of any quantity 6 years ago, and this policy of this administration has now made actually heroin so readily available its purity exceeds that of any other available drug, hard drug.

The price has dropped. The supply is so great. It is available as now a drug that can be marketed to our young people, probably lower than the price of cocaine on our streets. So we have seen a deadly brand of heroin being grown from that country.

It would be nice if people on my side of the aisle stood up and said what they have done and are doing about this situation, and it is incumbent on me not to just criticize the Clinton administration or my colleagues on the other side for their failed policies, but I think it is important that we state for the record what we have done.

In fact, I cited that Speaker HASTERT, who shared the responsibility for developing and putting back together our drug strategy, began that process, putting resources into, again, source country eradication programs, interdiction, getting funds and resources to the military and to the Coast Guard and others to fight this tremendous battle.

Additionally, we put in over a billion dollars in education funding, \$191 million last year, to begin public information education and a media campaign, which will be matched by private sector donations. So we should have close to half a billion dollars before we are through this effort to educate folks.

On the front of Colombia, which has become our major source of production, it has been my pleasure to meet with President Pastrana, both in the United States here, soon after he took office,

the end of last year, and visiting with him also in Colombia with other Members of Congress, to seek his cooperation, to seek Colombia's cooperation, and we are doing just that. He faces a very difficult challenge now that the Marxist guerillas, the FARC and ELN and others, have taken control of a large portion of the land area of Colombia, have dug their heels in and have now created an incredible war.

If we think the problem in Kosovo is a tragedy, thousands and thousands of Colombians have died in this civil conflict, and certainly if we look at the national interest, if we looked at Kosovo and we looked at Colombia, our national interest with this being the source of the death of 14,000 Americans, the majority of 14,000 Americans who died, I am sure we could trace the narcotics right to Colombia.

In Colombia, dozens and dozens of elected officials, 11 members of their Supreme Court, have been murdered, killed; over 3,000 of the national police have died in a conflict giving their lives trying to combat the narcoterrorists, which are again related to a Marxist effort and narcoterrorist effort to take over Colombia, but we stopped, again, any resources going down there, ammunition, helicopters, equipment, spare parts, and we now see again this leftist-initiated civil war that has killed tens of thousands of Colombians, thousands of officials, created terror and allowed narcoterrorism to flourish in that country.

I might say that, again, we have begun to put this whole program and effort back together to deal with that situation. Several weeks ago I was so pleased to join with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), who is chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, the full committee of which we are a subcommittee. I also had the pleasure of joining with the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), who is the Chair of our Committee on International Affairs, two individuals who have fought for years to get resources to Colombia so we would not be in the situation we are in.

I participated with them by going to a factory in Connecticut, near New Haven, Connecticut, for delivery of Black Hawk helicopters, 6 Black Hawk helicopters, which will be supplied in the war and effort against illegal narcotics, both the production and also going after traffickers. These 6 helicopters are long overdue. There should be 16, as I said in my remarks there at the ceremony in which they were turned over. Unfortunately, it will take some months before the pilots are fully trained and before they are in the air. We are doing our part, as a majority. Speaker HASTERT again in his capacity began this initiative to make certain that now that those helicopters and those parts and that ammunition are delivered that we have a war on drugs, so that we have a cost effective operation at the source.

Madam Speaker, if we know where the majority of cocaine and coca is produced and processed, and that is Colombia, and if we know where 75 percent of the heroin coming in to the United States, and we know that without question because we have signature programs like DNA programs that can almost trace the heroin to the poppy fields where they are grown, if we know that 75 percent of this deadly heroin is coming from Colombia, why in heaven's name would we not be sending the adequate resources there?

I am here to say tonight that we are sending some of those resources on their way, and I hope that this time that this administration will not block those resources from getting to where they can do the most cost effective job in stopping deadly heroin, deadly cocaine, from coming into the United States. There is no cheaper way of stopping the supply than stopping it at its source; again, hopefully to help in the resolution of a civil war that has taken thousands of lives, and which we know is directly financed by the proceeds of this narcoterrorism.

So, again, I congratulate the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, for his assistance and leadership, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), our chair of the full Committee on Government Reform, for their efforts and persistence in getting the resources to where they can be most cost effective.

Madam Speaker, again, we try to address the issues dealing with drugs as they come into the United States and before they come into the United States in a cost effective manner. In that regard, last week my subcommittee held a hearing on the question of Panama, and the effects of the United States losing its flight operations and basically being kicked out of the Panama Canal Zone as far as any forward surveillance operations dealing with narcotics.

On May 1, the United States was prohibited from launching any flights, any narcotics surveillance missions, from the Republic of Panama. This is an incredible blow to our capability to find drugs as they come from, again, their source country. Again, we have to think of the most cost effective way to stop drugs and we have to think of where these illegal narcotics are produced, where they are processed and where the beginning of the trafficking comes from. Our ability to deal with that has been as through an operation that has been found for a number of years in Panama, particularly at Howard Air Force base where we have had various surveillance aircraft, including AWACS and others tracking and monitoring illegal narcotics flights, trafficking, doing surveillance work in cooperation with countries.

□ 1730

Most Americans are not aware of it, but again, we were kicked out May 1.

The reason we were kicked out deals back to the Carter administration and the truth agreements that the United States must vacate. However, our subcommittee in Congress was led to believe that this administration was moving forward with negotiations with Panama so that we could, at a minimum, keep our narcotics surveillance operations from that base, which is just ideally located, again for the purpose of interdicting close to the source, illegal narcotics.

Unfortunately, there is no other way to put it, but the State Department bungled the negotiations and this went on until the very last minute. We were in Panama in January hoping that there could be some resolution. Unfortunately, the negotiations failed. The United States lost all access.

In fact, the United States stopped all flights from Panama on May 1. We had 15,000 flights, and we covered 100 percent of the area that needed to be covered to conduct surveillance of illegal narcotics trafficking and production.

In the hearing that we conducted last week, unfortunately we could not be told as to how many operations have been relocated.

Now, it would not be bad enough that we got kicked out and the negotiations were bungled, but part of the \$18 billion that the administration has come to Congress to ask for to deal in the drug war, part of that, a large part of it, is \$73 million to relocate what we had been not paying for in Panama, but to relocate operations to Aruba or Curacao with the Netherlands, and also to Ecuador.

So what has been patched together, we learned through this hearing, are interim agreements, and we have no long-term agreements, not a single long-term agreement to replace our base operations in Panama, but at a cost of \$73 million, which was originally proposed to us to move these operations, which now we cannot even tell how many flights are taking off from that area, but we know that they are less than 50 percent of the coverage we had on May 1, or prior to May 1.

We know it is costing us money, and we also know that a request came to our subcommittee in Congress for an additional \$40-some million, I believe it was \$45 million, on top of the \$73 million that we are being asked to foot the bill for dealing with, again, a failed negotiation.

And we now have, again, less than 50 percent coverage, and it may be several years before we have any hope of having the coverage that we had from our Panama location. All this will be paid for by the taxpayers, and unfortunately, this is only the tip of the iceberg. We are also told that it may cost as much as \$200 million to upgrade some facilities and some airstrips in some of these countries.

□ 1745

Unfortunately, again, we only have interim agreements, no long-term

agreements. We also have a very short-term interim agreement with Ecuador, which is of concern because Ecuador has had very difficult political problems, economic instability.

If we are to house a forward operating location there and expend money, we want some assurance that taxpayers' money would be properly expended.

But we have really witnessed a small disaster, which has not been properly recorded by the press in the loss of our operations. The cost is phenomenal. It will probably be a half a billion dollars to replace these operations before we are through.

We have lost over 5,600 buildings, not to mention Howard Air Force Base and its use for these surveillance operations. We lost \$10 billion in assets that the American taxpayers paid for in the Canal Zone, all quietly closed down and again leaving an incredible gap in the area that needs protection and surveillance and overflight information.

So we find ourselves in a very difficult situation trying to put this South American strategy and interdiction strategy back together. But, again, we are trying to do our best and do it in a cost-effective manner as we consider the appropriations in this budget.

So we put some of the helicopters into place in Colombia. We have got equipment going back to Colombia as an initiative of the majority, the Republican side, and efforts again by those who fought these cuts, which have had such serious implications for us.

We now are trying to piece together a forward-operating location for surveillance and interdiction of drugs at their source and do that again in a cost-effective manner, picking up the shred of disastrous negotiations by this administration as we quietly make our way from the Panama Canal Zone and pay for access to other countries.

So those are a couple of the agenda items that our subcommittee has been involved in in trying to restore our war on drugs and our efforts to curtail this major national illegal narcotics problem.

One of the other concerns that I have had, as a Member of Congress and also dealing with this drug issue, is try to come up with some solution to address what I will term the Mexican problem.

Now, in addition to Colombia, and we have now cooperation equipment going there, we look at a strategy that deals from a national perspective, an international perspective, again stopping drugs at their source. I have already cited Peru, Colombia, Bolivia and their role in providing both the production and trafficking of illegal narcotics.

The next biggest offender and really the biggest problem that we have facing us is the problem with Mexico. Unfortunately, this administration certified Mexico some weeks ago as fully cooperating in our efforts and with

their efforts to stop the production and trafficking of illegal narcotics.

Nothing could probably be further than the truth. Nothing could encourage a country to just kick sand in the face of the United States and ignore the will of the United States Congress and the American people than an action to certify Mexico as fully cooperating.

Our subcommittee held a hearing on Mexican certification and decertification, and today we held another one on the question of extradition and particularly what Mexico has been doing to extradite major drug traffickers.

Let me say, if I may, for way of explanation to Members of Congress, for the Speaker's edification, that the certification law which was passed in the 1980s is a simple law. It says that no country that is not fully cooperating with the United States will be eligible to receive foreign aid or foreign assistance if they do not take steps again to fully cooperate in an effort to curtail illegal narcotics production and trafficking. Simple law, simple concept. No assistance in stopping illegal narcotics and the trafficking and production, no foreign assistance.

Again, this administration, for the past several years, has certified Mexico as fully cooperating. Why would anyone certify a country as fully cooperating who performed as follows: Mexico, first of all, in the last calendar year had a decrease in the number of seizures of heroin. Mexico had a decrease in the number of seizures of cocaine. Mexico also had a decrease in the number of vessels that were seized in narcotics trafficking.

Mexico has ignored every request of the United States Congress and Members of Congress to deal with the hard narcotics. And 50 percent of the narcotics coming into the United States can be traced either as produced or trafficked through Mexico. That is 50 percent of the death and destruction, the 14,000 Americans last year, the 100,000 Americans in the last 6 years who have lost their lives to the effects of illegal narcotics. We can trace them, again, to inaction by Mexico.

Not only do we have inaction and lack of cooperation, lack of effort on their part, we have had actually difficulty in trying to conduct any operations to stop money laundering and illegal narcotics with Mexico.

I bring to the floor and to the attention of my colleagues and the Speaker the situation with Operation Casa Blanca. We asked for cooperation in Operation Casa Blanca, which was a multimillion dollars, in fact one of the largest money laundering operations ever uncovered in the Western Hemisphere, and it involved Mexican bankers.

What did the Mexican officials do? Even though we know that they were alerted and aware of this operation, they threatened to arrest United States Customs officials who were involved in that operation.

This is not fully cooperating by any standards. This is a close ally to which the United States, the Congress, and many Members on both sides of the aisle extended incredible trade benefits through NAFTA, extended incredible finance underwriting when their currency was failing.

When their economy was faltering several years ago, we helped bolster and we do bolster through our international cooperation and finance, financing and the structure of support for international finance for Mexico. We give incredible benefits to that country, which, again, has not in any sense and in any term fully cooperated in meeting requests.

I have tonight from the hearing that we conducted several little posters, wanted posters. We have Ramon Eduardo Arellano-Felix, who has pending U.S. criminal charges dealing with conspiracy to import cocaine and marijuana. He is a fugitive, a United States fugitive. He has not been arrested by Mexico.

I used him as one example in the hearing we held just a few hours ago on extradition. We found again the request of Congress and repeated requests of the House of Representatives in particular has been for Mexico to cooperate in extraditing even one major narcotics trafficker.

Through the hearing that we held this afternoon, we learned that in fact Mexico has been requested to extradite over 270 Mexican nationals. There are over 40 major drug traffickers that we are trying to extradite. To date not one single individual major drug trafficker, not one drug kingpin has been extradited from Mexico.

We heard a tale today from the Department of Justice, Department of State how these drug lords with their oodles of death money are now subverting even the Mexican process and hiring legal experts and doing everything possible to avoid extradition.

But this individual is only one of numerous requests that we have made of Mexico year after year for extradition. This Congress and this House of Representatives passed, 2 years ago March, several simple requests of Mexico. First was extradition of major drug traffickers, even one. Again, to date, nothing has transpired.

Additionally, this House of Representatives 2 years ago asked Mexico to enter into a maritime agreement. That is so important because many of the drug traffickers use the sea lanes and water to transport and also as escape routes. It is so important that we have a maritime agreement. Still to date no maritime agreement with Mexico, another request of this House of Representatives.

Additionally, we had asked for radar to be placed in the south of Mexico, because we knew that from Colombia and from South America illegal narcotics were coming in through Mexico. To date, no progress and radar to the south of Mexico. Another request completely ignored.

We asked additionally that our DEA agents, our drug enforcement agents that are located in Mexico, be given the ability to protect themselves, in some cases arm themselves, because they are at incredible personal risk in this war there and exposed on every front in Mexico. To date, those requests have still been ignored.

Then we asked that some of the laws that Mexico had passed to deal with illegal narcotics, trafficking and money laundering, we asked that those laws be enforced. Rather than enforcement, what the Mexicans have done, as I just cited, was kick dirt in our face in Operation Casa Blanca, threaten to arrest our United States Customs agents who uncovered multimillion dollar illegal narcotics trafficking.

So by any measure, all of the requests that we have made as a House of Representatives, as individual Members, as members of the subcommittee have been ignored.

Again we have this wanted poster. We had dozens of these at the committee hearing this afternoon of major drug lords, traffickers who have not been extradited, requests that have been pending year after year; and Mexico has ignored time and again the extradition of any of these Mexican nationals to the United States where they know and our DEA agents and our head of DEA has said that there is nothing that these traffickers fear more than coming to the United States where they will face justice, where they will face a jail term, and they will face punishment.

In these countries, many of those who we have asked for extradition after we have indicted them have fled. Many of them are free and in Mexico.

What is unfortunate, Madam Speaker, what is incredible as I conclude this evening is that this situation with Mexico again has rained tremendous damage on the United States of America who has tried to be a good friend, a good ally, and a good trading partner.

□ 1800

When a country which is a close ally and neighbor, and we have millions of great Mexican Americans in the United States who bring great diversity and tremendous contributions to our society, when we have this ally of Mexico not cooperating, it is a tragedy.

What concerns me is that we are on the verge now of seeing Mexico become a narcoterrorist state. It is unfortunate, but the reports that we have is that the entire Baja Peninsula, all the Mexican territory of the Baja Peninsula below California, is now under narcoterrorist control. They control the police, they control the local government, they control the military. Basically, the entire Baja region has become a narcoterrorist state.

Over 300 Mexicans were killed last year. Some 20 of them my colleagues may have read about were machine-gunned down, women and children, in violence we had only seen when the

drug lords were in power in Cali and Medellin. So Mexico is about to lose the Baja Peninsula, or has lost the Baja Peninsula.

Additionally, Mexico has lost the Yucatan Peninsula. When we met with Mexican officials and the Attorney General, who told us they were doing everything to bring the situation under control, we cited the corruption of the governor of Quintana Roo, the Yucatan Peninsula, that state where President Clinton went down and met with President Zedillo just a few months ago.

They met in another narcoterrorist state, controlled by a governor who was corrupt, who we knew was corrupt and the Mexicans knew was corrupt. In fact, the Mexicans told us the only reason they had not arrested him is because in Mexico public officials have a certain immunity while they are in office, and they were waiting for him to leave office and then he would be arrested. And what took place there just a few days before the governor of Quintana Roo, the Yucatan Peninsula, was to leave office, he fled and is now a fugitive. So we did not even get one of the major traffickers in the Yucatan Peninsula. So another major land area in Mexico is now lost to narcoterrorism.

Additionally, we have reports of mountain regions and other states and locales in Mexico being completely overtaken by narcoterrorism, and it is a different kind of activity than we have seen before with just corruption. Now we see real terrorism, where they are killing local officials and others who cross them in this incredible war that has been fueled by illegal narcotics trafficking.

So tonight, as I close, I am disappointed with the Clinton administration and the problems they have created through their policies of 1993 to 1995, but I am pleased that we have taken a new direction and, with some help from folks on both sides of the aisle, Democrat and Republican, we now have more resources going into cost-effective source country programs, to interdiction, as again we know where these drugs are coming from; for law enforcement, which is a tough way to go, but we must enforce the laws of our land and try to bring illegal narcotics trafficking under control; and also for education, so our young people know about the dangers and about the deadly heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine that is on our streets.

WHERE'S THE BEEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BONO). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, where's the beef? May 13, today, marks the day in which the European Union is set to respond to its loss of the beef hormone dispute.